

**Conclusion**

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Should there be any further matter requiring consideration, Examiner Liu is invited to contact the undersigned counsel.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of the present response, please charge the fees to undersigned's Deposit Account No. 03-4000. If a fee is required for an extension of time not accounted for, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to undersigned's deposit account.

Date: January 21, 2010

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Respectfully submitted,

/ Fernando I. Santos /

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